
PURPOSE

To assure consistency across the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) hospitals regarding the use of patient advance directives.

DEFINITIONS

Advance Directive

A document allowing a patient, or their advocate if the patient loses decision making capacity, to provide direction about future health care decisions. Advance directives include, but are not limited to:

- Do-not-resuscitate (DNR) orders.
- Durable power of attorney.
- Durable power of attorney for health care.

Advocate

An individual designated to make medical treatment decisions for a patient.

Hospital

An inpatient program operated by MDHHS for the treatment of individuals with serious mental or serious emotional disturbance licensed under Sec. 137 of the Mental Health Code.

POLICY

State hospitals document and honor advance directives within the limits of state and federal law, and their scope of practice of providing inpatient treatment to individuals with serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance.

OVERVIEW

The following standards exist within the context of advance directives and state hospitals must ensure that:

- Upon admission, copies of the patient's advance directive are requested, should one exist, from the patient, their parent or guardian if the patient is less than 18 years of age, or the patient's advocate. The advance directive must be retained within the electronic medical record. Hospital staff must be made aware of a patient's advance directive so that it can be implemented.

- Upon admission, the patient is provided with information on the extent to which the hospital is able, unable, or unwilling to honor advance directives.
- If a patient does not have an advance directive at the time of admission the hospital must provide written information pertaining to advance directives, forgoing or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment, and withholding resuscitative services to the patient, their parent or guardian, or their advocate. Advance directives are not required as a condition of hospitalization or for the provision of treatment or care.
- Patients are referred by the hospital for assistance in formulating advance directives upon request. This includes referrals to Disability Rights Michigan.
- A guardian's consultation is facilitated with the attending physician regarding the specific medical indications that may warrant a DNR order to execute such DNR orders pursuant to MCL 700.5315.
- Advance directives are reviewed and revised at the request of the patient, or their parent or guardian.
- Procedures are developed necessary to maintain compliance with applicable standards of The Joint Commission.

Hospitals have been entered into agreements, via the State Hospital Administration, with designative organ and tissue recovery programs consistent with The Joint Commission standards.

REFERENCES

- Joint Commission Accreditation Manual for Hospitals: Rights and Responsibilities of the Individual, RI.01.5.01.
- Michigan Do-Not-Resuscitate Procedure Act, Public Act 193 of 1996.
- Michigan Estates and Protected Individuals Code, Public Act 386 of 1998.

CONTACT

For more information, contact the State Hospital Administration.